

April 15, 1975

such tax...Yes, that's true.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Yes, that's ridiculous. OK.

SPEAKER: The Senator George amendment is now on the desk. Give consideration.

CLERK: The Senator Cope amendment and insert, "at a rate of up to 3 per cent". Signed Senator George.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: Mr. President, I have already explained my amendment to Senator Cope's amendment. All I want to do with this amendment is, to give this power back to those cities and counties who would choose to come out with this hotel tax. Now, it is totally up to them whether they think they can get along with 1% or 2% or 3% and I think we ought to give them that leeway because we have quite a variety of interests in this state. One larger city might have to levy 3% but that doesn't mean that somebody 200 miles out might not get along with 1% and I want to give them this leeway back. I move for the adoption of my amendment.

SPEAKER: Fowler's light went on next. Do you want to address yourself to the George amendment.

SENATOR FOWLER: Yes. Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I'd support Senator George's amendment. I basically oppose the bill but I certainly oppose the amendments that Senator Cope brought in today. What he is introducing is kind of a reverse concept of taxes. We will set a fixed amount. We will raise that money and then we will figure out how to spend it rather than going the other way. Let's see what the needs are and trying to assess that money. I think this points out the deficiency, when you start having these special excise taxes to create special slush funds to play games with. What you want to do is just try and create as much money as you can. With this bill, it seems the intent is to turn it over to the Chamber of Commerce to play with so I think Senator Cope, by saying that the people who want this, want a fixed amount of money, has pointed out the very deficiency of this sort of excise tax. I do support Senator George's amendment, however, because if we are going to pass this bill, there should at least be a little reason to it and we develop the funds the same way any other government has to. It develops the budget and then figures out how much to tax rather than the other way around.

SPEAKER: Senator Dickinson, do you want to address yourself to the George amendment?

SENATOR DICKINSON: More or less, Mr. President, I support the George amendment with an "if". If in fact we need the whole Cope amendment. If we don't need it, then his amendment is in the original bill. I would like Senator Cope, if he would explain it briefly. I know he has read the whole amendment to us and I read it with him but explain, briefly, exactly why the necessity for the amendment, in just a few points, if you can please, Senator. I am for the bill by the way, Senator. I am not trying to harm the